

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see the distinguished Senator from Arkansas on the floor. I suggest we go to him next, but I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized when he finishes his comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. ROSS

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today I wish to recognize James A. Ross of Cotter as the Arkansan of the Week for exemplifying what it means to be a great Arkansan.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Jim and his wife Mary Lou moved to Cotter in 1959 to raise their three boys because they saw Arkansas as a State that puts people first.

Jim worked as a carpenter and played a role in the construction of many buildings in Cotter, Mountain Home, and other areas in North Central Arkansas. Until his retirement, he worked tirelessly to ensure the success and stability of his family, his church, and his community.

Jim is a popular guy in Cotter. He has always been an active member of the community. He served as the Cotter school board secretary and worked to help build the current Cotter City Hall. Additionally, Jim has served as a deacon for First Baptist Church in Cotter for over 40 years.

Jim and Mary Lou have been married for over 64 years. Jim now spends his time enjoying his three children and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In fact, it was one of those grandkids, Cameron, who nominated Jim for Arkansan of the Week. In his nomination, Cameron wrote:

Jim's faith drives his every move, and at 86-years-old, he still gives as much back to the community as he possibly can. On any given day you can find him driving around town waving at passersby, or working in his garden in front of his green-and-brown house with sunflowers painted on it.

Cameron continued:

Jim Ross is a great Arkansan, not because he has done one major thing, but because he has done countless little things to further his city, his state, and his nation.

I couldn't agree more. Jim truly embodies what it means to be the Arkansan of the Week. We could all take a few lessons from him about commitment to faith, family, and community. Jim and Mary Lou came to Arkansas because they saw it as a State that puts people first, and it is people like Jim who make that recognition a reality.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, first, I should note how much I agree with

the senior Senator from New Hampshire and her comments about the appropriations process. I mentioned on the floor yesterday that in the Appropriations Committee, we reported 12 bills, including the State and foreign operations bill. It passed, 30 to 0. It and the other bills have now been put on a shelf to collect dust by the House Republican leadership. We will probably never get a chance to vote on them. By doing so, by deciding to put the government on autopilot and drafting another continuing resolution instead, they will reduce by almost \$500 million the amount that the Senate provided for fiscal year 2017 for the security of our diplomats and embassies abroad. It is very similar to what the House did when they refused to support the Senate's higher amount for embassy security prior to the Benghazi attack. They didn't want to admit it, as they spent tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money investigating the lack of security in Benghazi, blaming everyone but themselves. It will be interesting to see if they acknowledge that they are again cutting funds for embassy security.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S BUSINESS DEALINGS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on another matter, I have noted for months, actually for years, in the lead-up to the November 8 election, that congressional Republicans spent millions of taxpayers' dollars to air their unsubstantiated concerns about corruption at the highest levels of our government. If they were trying to get on television doing it, we might want to take a look at what they said. They said the Clinton Foundation should be dissolved, notwithstanding the amount of good work it is doing around the world. Every action, every meeting, every activity of the Clinton Foundation should be revealed, they said. We cannot allow such a foundation to run so close to the Oval Office, they said.

So it is ironic, sadly ironic, actually it is madly ironic, that since November 8, I have heard neither a shout nor a whisper from congressional Republicans echoing the same concerns about our President-elect's personal and profitable business dealings. No outrage that the President-elect's family may charge the American taxpayers millions of dollars to rent space for the Secret Service at Trump Tower. No demand that the President-elect—the chairman and president of The Trump Corporation—dissolve the interests he owns. Today we hear how the President-elect plans to address these conflicts of interest which he calls a “visual” problem rather than an ethical one. But unless he does what I and others have called for—divest his interest in and sever his relationship to the Trump Organization and put the proceeds in a true blind trust—it is nothing more than lipservice. Until we know more about what role his family

will have, both in his business interests and the government's operation under a Trump administration, no one should consider this serious concern as addressed.

And here is the duplicity of congressional Republicans' double standard. After years of partisan witch hunts and millions of wasted taxpayer dollars investigating bogus allegations against Hillary Clinton, and by extension the Clinton Foundation, if they fail to demand the same of Donald Trump that they demanded of her, they will, as E.J. Dionne said so eloquently in his column in the Washington Post, “be fully implicated in any Trump scandal that results from a shameful and partisan double standard.”

Madam President, I am hearing from Vermonters. They are worried. They are uncertain. Some of them are scared. Congress could do a great service to all our constituents if it led by example, not just by convenient spoken platitudes that might give you a few seconds on the evening news. If my colleagues want to actually be the leaders that they claim they are, do not start by validating an offensive and dangerous double standard. Have the same standard for Republicans as you do for Democrats. You can't condemn Democrats on something but say it is perfectly okay if Republicans do it. It doesn't work that way.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the column from the Washington Post of November 27, 2016, by E.J. Dionne entitled “An ethical double standard for Trump—and the GOP?” be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 27, 2016]

AN ETHICAL DOUBLE STANDARD FOR TRUMP—AND THE GOP?

(By E.J. Dionne Jr.)

Republicans are deeply concerned about ethics in government and the vast potential for corruption stemming from conflicts of interest. We know this because of the acute worries they expressed over how these issues could have cast a shadow over a Hillary Clinton presidency.

“If Hillary Clinton wins this election and they don't shut down the Clinton Foundation and come clean with all of its past activities, then there's no telling the kind of corruption that you might see out of the Clinton White House,” Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) told conservative talk show host Hugh Hewitt.

Presumably Cotton will take the lead in advising Donald Trump to “shut down” his business activities and “come clean” on what came before. Surely Cotton wants to be consistent.

The same must be true of Reince Priebus, the Republican National Committee chair whom Trump tapped as his chief of staff. “When that 3 a.m. phone call comes, Americans deserve to have a president on the line who is not compromised by foreign donations,” Priebus said earnestly in a statement on Aug. 18.

Priebus, you would think, believes this even more strongly about a president whose enterprises might reap direct profits for himself or members of his family from foreign businesses or governments. Priebus must